



**DARK
HORSE
COMICS**
ORCHID

7

ORCHID

TM



TOM MORELLO

SCOTT HEPBURN

DAN JACKSON

SCRIPT BY
TOM MORELLO

ART BY
SCOTT HEPBURN

COLORS BY
DAN JACKSON



LETTERS BY
NATE PIEKOS OF BLAMBOT®

COVER BY
MASSIMO CARNEVALE

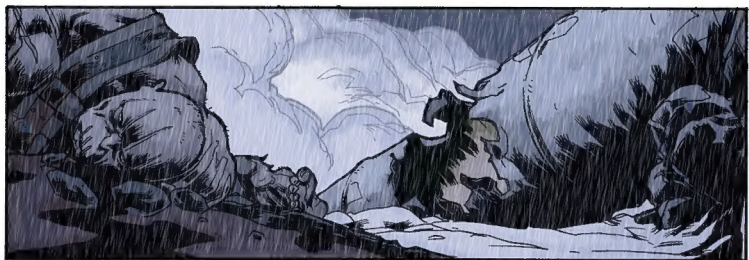
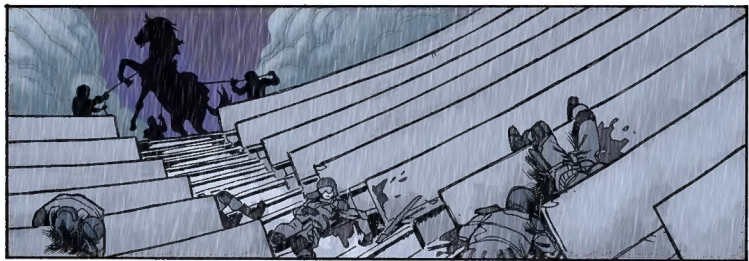
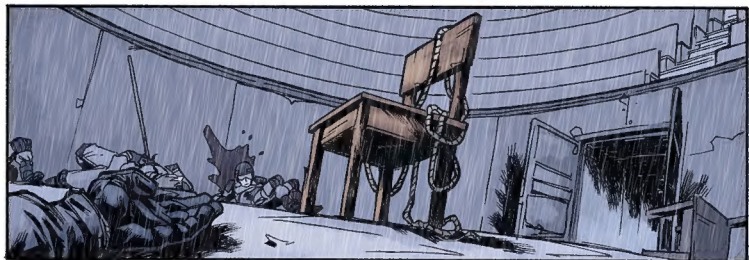
Following the deaths of her mother and brother, Orchid has nothing left to lose. Hell bent on revenge, she forms an unlikely trio with a Shadow Rebel, Simon, and a mysterious warrior, Opal.

The fight for justice starts when someone starts it. And this fight starts . . . NOW.

DESIGNER **DAVID NESTELLE** ASSISTANT EDITOR **JIM GIBBONS** EDITOR **SIERRA HAHN** PUBLISHER **MIKE RICHARDSON**
SPECIAL THANKS TO **MICHELE FISHER AND DAVE LAND**

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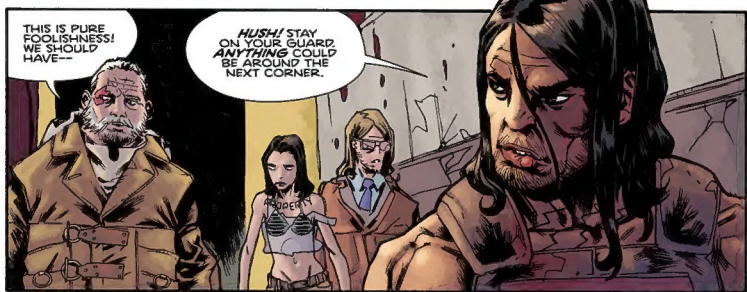
WELL, IT'S
CERTAINLY NOT
VERY DIFFICULT
FOLLOWING
OPAL'S
TRAIL.

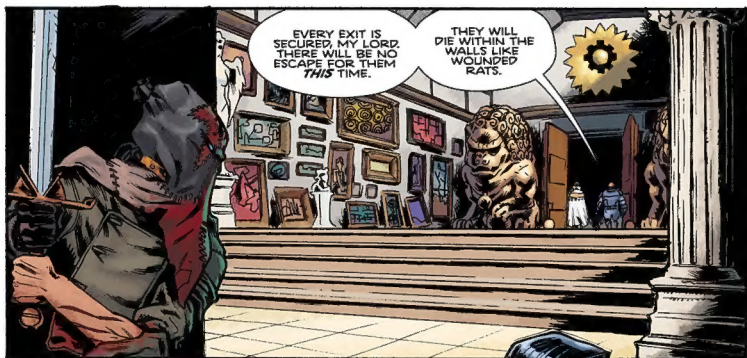
WE HAVE
TO FIND HER
AND GET
HER OUT OF
HERE!

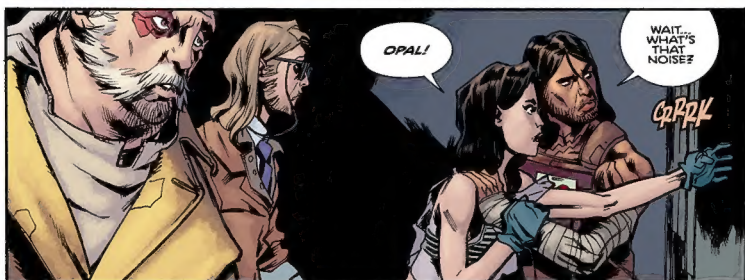


THIS IS PURE
FOOLISHNESS!
WE SHOULD
HAVE--

HUSH! STAY
ON YOUR GUARD.
ANYTHING COULD
BE AROUND THE
NEXT CORNER.











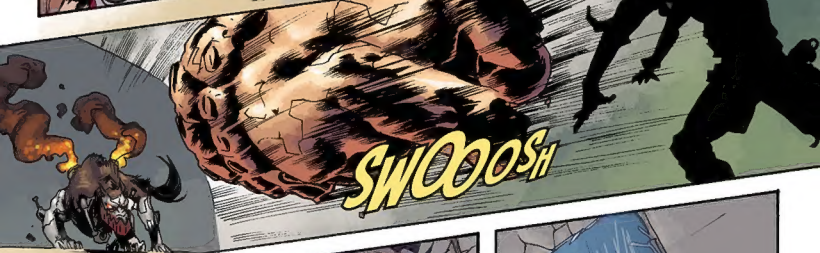


BAM

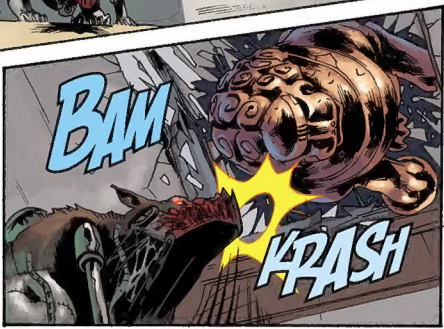
OPAL!

SUHHS
LET ME
GO!

THERE'S
NOTHING WE
CAN DO! ONLY
THE POWER OF
THE MASK HAS
ANY CHANCE TO
DEFEAT THAT
BEAST!



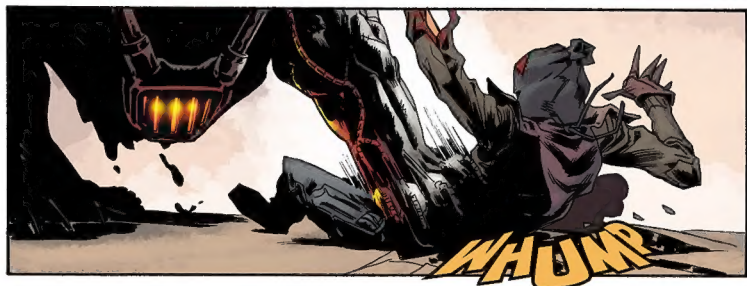
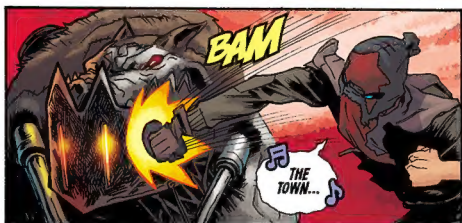
SWOOSH

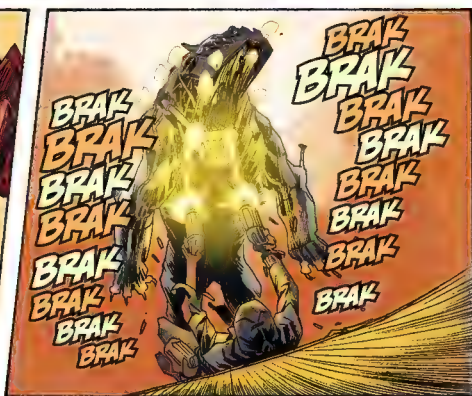
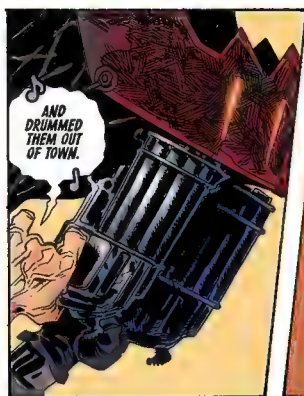
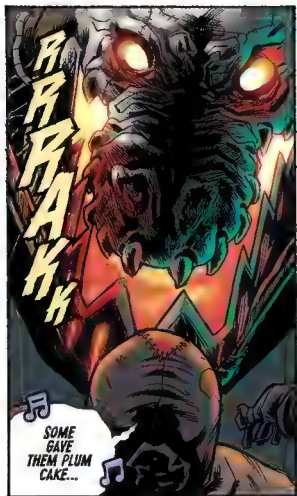


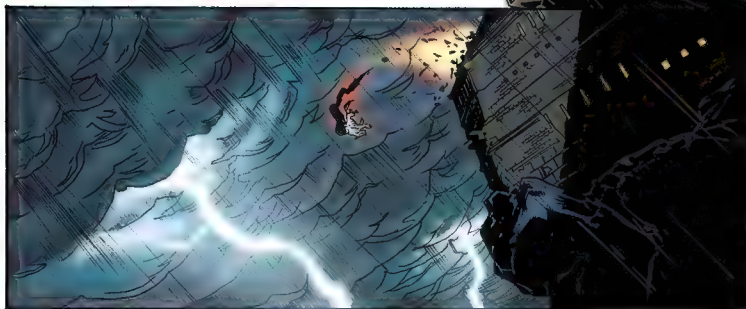
BAM

KRASH











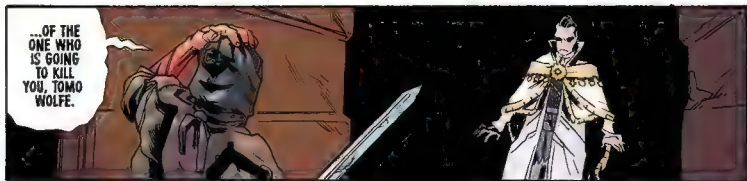
YOU'RE
NEXT.

NOW,
NOW...LET
US REASON
TOGETHER.

I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE OR
HOW YOU'VE MANAGED TO HARNESS
THE MASK'S POWER, BUT I'M CERTAIN
WE CAN COME TO SOME ACCOMMODATION.
FIRST, YOU AND THOSE BRIDGE
LICE TURN AROUND
THIS INSTANT—



SILENCE!
I WANT YOU
TO SEE THE
FACE...



...OF THE
ONE WHO
IS GOING
TO KILL
YOU, TOMO
WOLFE.



NO!
YOU?

YES, I
HAVE ALWAYS
BEEN THE
REAL GENERAL
CHINA.

"MY TRUE LOVE,
CHINA, WAS KILLED
AND KIMATHI
AND I COULD
NOT ACCEPT THAT
HE WAS GONE."

"SO I
ASSUMED
HIS NAME
AND HIS
ROLE."


"PROVIDER."

"PROTECTOR."

"UNTIL I
BECAME
THIS."

"NO ONE WOULD ACCEPT A *WOMAN*
AS LEADER OF A CLANDESTINE REBELLION,
SO I *OPAL-HID* UNDER THIS MASK,
AND *GENERAL CHINA* I BECAME."






"WE HAVE BOTH
KEPT MY IDENTITY
A SECRET FOR OUR
OWN REASONS.
HAVEN'T WE,
TOMO WOLFEZ

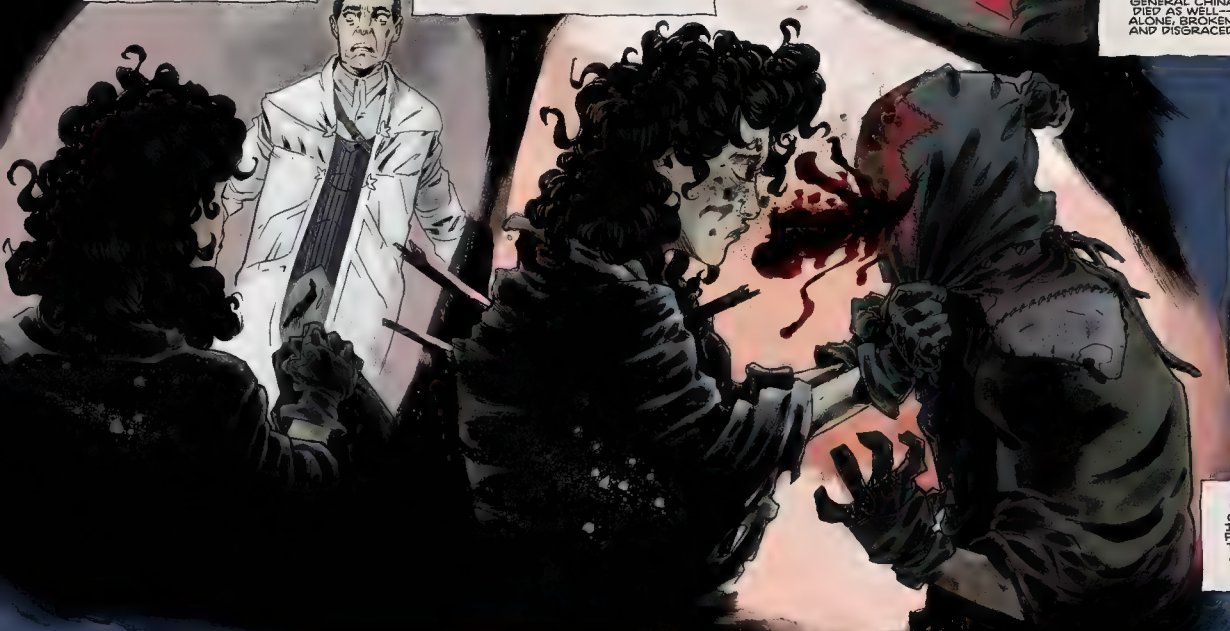
"YOUR INVINCIBLE LEGIONS
WERE NEARLY BESTED BY A
WOMAN, WEREN'T THEY?
NO, YOU COULD NEVER
ADMIT THAT.

"WE ARE THE DIRT BENEATH
YOUR FEET. RAPE AND
PROSTITUTION KEEP US THERE,
THE LOWEST OF THE LOW.

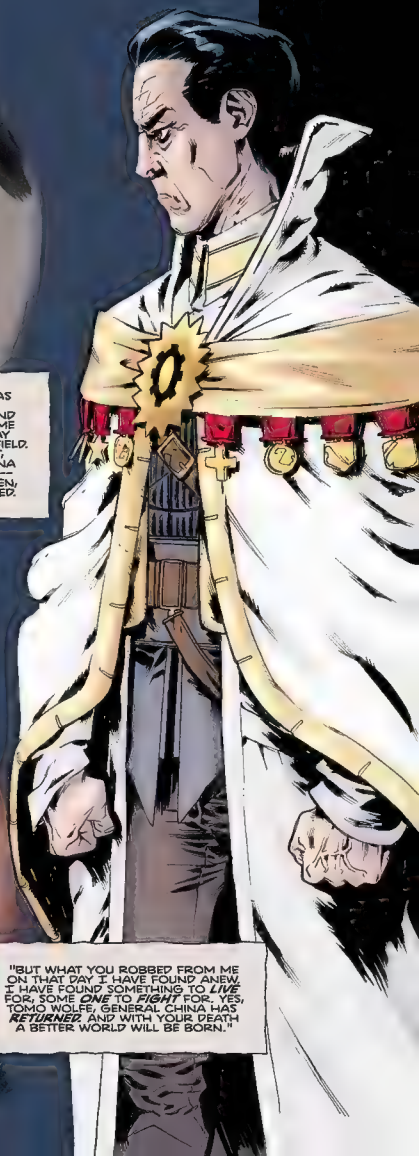
"YOU DIDN'T NEED TO *KILL* 'GENERAL
CHINA' WHEN YOU COULD ERASE THE
COURAGE THAT MADE OTHERS FOLLOW
ME. YOU KNEW I COULD NEVER FACE
THE SHAME OF BETRAYING MY CLOSEST
FRIEND EVEN TO SAVE OTHERS, AND
YES, TO SAVE MY OWN LIFE, THAT
PUNISHMENT WAS WORSE THAN DEATH.




"ALL THAT WAS
GOOD AND
RIGHTEOUS AND
JUST WITHIN ME
DIED THAT DAY
ON THE BATTLEFIELD.
AND WITH IT,
GENERAL CHINA
DIED AS WELL—
ALONE, BROKEN,
AND DISGRACED.



"BUT WHAT YOU ROBBED FROM ME
ON THAT DAY I HAVE FOUND ANEW.
I HAVE FOUND SOMETHING TO *LIVE*
FOR, SOME *ONE* TO *FIGHT* FOR. YES,
TOMO WOLFE, GENERAL CHINA HAS
RETURNED. AND WITH YOUR DEATH
A BETTER WORLD WILL BE BORN."





ALL YOUR
HOPE IS VANITY,
AND IN THE END
YOU HAVE BEEN
UNDONE BY
YOUR PRIDE.

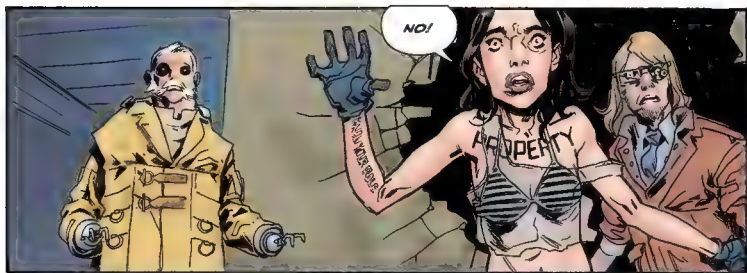


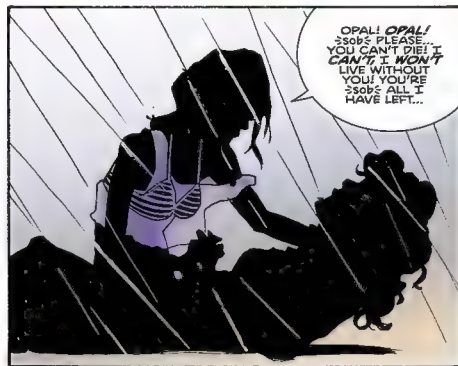
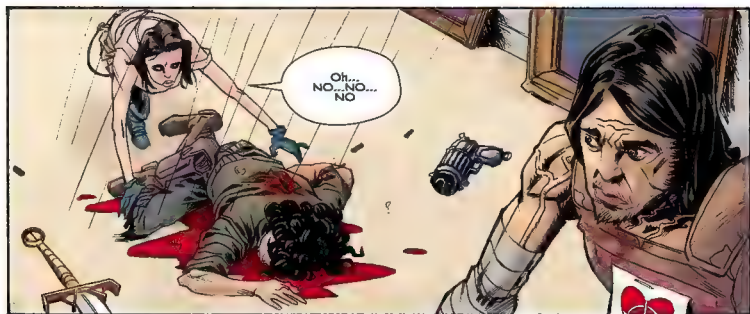
SMUG
TO THE LAST!
IT IS *YOU*
WHO WILL
BE—



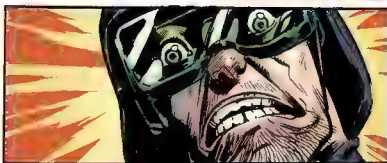
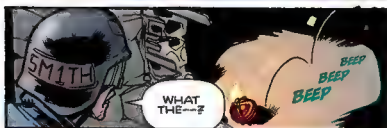
OPAL!
LOOK
OUT!

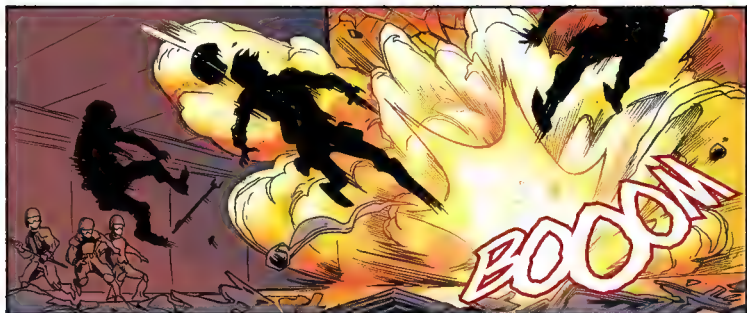


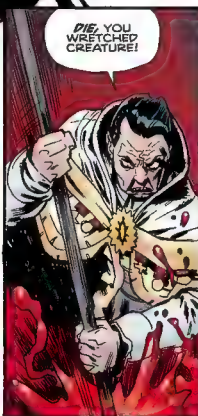
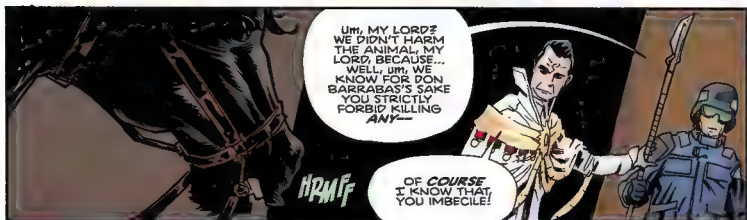
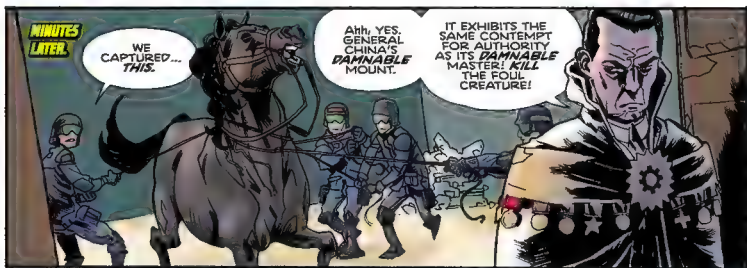


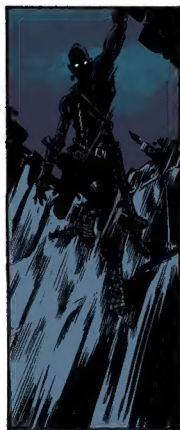
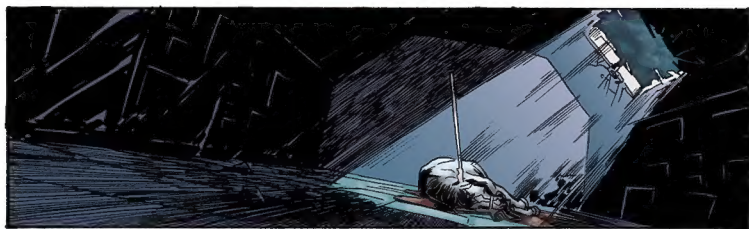














**TO BE
CONTINUED...**

THE SHADOW REBEL READER

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To learn more about the world of *Orchid* and be entered to win exclusive prizes, text **ORCHID** to **738674**. You don't have to buy a thing; we're just eager to explore innovative ways of bringing readers closer to the stories by providing unique content, news, and prizes.

Orchid began this series as an oppressed and indignant young woman. When her mother was murdered in front of her, she was filled with anger, an anger that became rage when her brother Yehzu was killed. Now, what happens to that rage when her mentor Opal—her surrogate mother in many ways—suffers the same injustice she's seen those in power impose upon anyone who doesn't fall in line? You'll have to keep reading to find out, but trust me—if we've learned anything about *Orchid*, it's that she's not the type to go quietly.

Tomo Wolfe may be a very capable tyrant, but he has foolishly made an enemy of Orchid. Having lost her family to Wolfe's minions, Orchid is out for justice, and I almost feel sorry for Wolfe. A strong character like Orchid (and she is one of the strongest, most interesting characters in comics) is not going to let him get away with such callous villainy. Reading this comic has been a pleasure, as the characters and world of Orchid are so engrossing. Great story and art have made Orchid one of my favorite comics.

Reed Beebe
Kansas City, Missouri

I wonder . . . Do you still almost feel sorry for Tomo after this issue's examples of callous villainy? Or are you ready to see him get his comeuppance, Reed?

Tomo,
Some comics are scary. Why? 'Cause they're too good to read! I'm sure you know what I mean. [Issue #5] lost me a little. I didn't even realize this was a mature readers' epic! I really, really think we got a hit on our hands here, though.

Andrew J. Shaw

After reading two issues, *Orchid* has jumped up near the top of my reading list. It has an exciting, fast-paced story that leaves me looking forward to the next issue. The quick weight adjust was a little contrived and far fetched [in issue #2], but sometimes you must

make do to further the rest of the story. I am the only one at our local small-town LCS that gets Orchid. The others do not know what they are missing. Too many people fail to give new and original books a try.

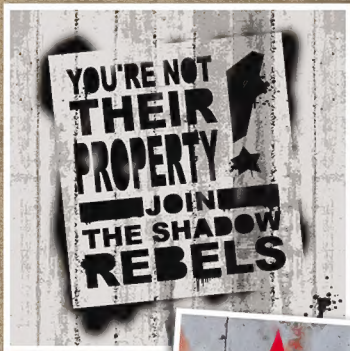
Jim Ludwig
Cleveland

Thanks for writing in, Jim. I hope you're no longer the only one reading *Orchid* at your local comic shop (LCS). If so, spread the good word, sir!

Speaking of spreading the word, we asked *Orchid* fans to submit their own Shadow Rebel propaganda posters. Check out the winning entry by Stefan Zenkner!

JIM

Jim Gibbons
Assistant Editor



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